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By: **Delegate Burns**  
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 15, 2001

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Registration Plates - Display of Owner's County of Residence**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, in addition to any other information required to be  
4 displayed, certain vehicle registration plates may display the name of the  
5 county, including Baltimore City, in which the vehicle's registered owner resides;  
6 requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to offer to each vehicle owner  
7 applying for new or replacement registration plates the option to obtain a  
8 sticker that affixes to the registration plates and displays the owner's county of  
9 residence; requiring the Administration to approve a sticker design option that  
10 complies with this Act; authorizing the Administration, in addition to the annual  
11 registration fee otherwise required, to charge a fee, which may not exceed its  
12 costs, for the stickers offered under this Act; prohibiting a vehicle owner from  
13 displaying a sticker that shows a county name other than the owner's county of  
14 residence; prohibiting the stickers from being placed on a special registration  
15 plate or a commemorative registration plate; and generally relating to  
16 registration plates that display the vehicle owner's county of residence.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article - Transportation  
19 Section 13-410  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article - Transportation**

2 13-410.

3 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, when it registers a vehicle,  
4 the Administration shall issue to the owner:

5 (i) One registration plate, if the vehicle is a Class D (motorcycle)  
6 vehicle, Class F (tractor) vehicle, or Class G (trailer) vehicle; and

7 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle.

8 (2) However, as to temporary registration, the Administration may  
9 provide for the issuance of only one temporary registration plate for any vehicle.

10 (b) (1) Each registration plate shall display:

11 (i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is  
12 issued; and

13 (ii) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

14 (2) The registration number may consist of letters, numerals, or both.

15 (C) (1) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES:

16 (I) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;

17 (II) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE REGISTERED OR CAPABLE OF  
18 REGISTRATION UNDER § 13-917 OF THIS TITLE; AND

19 (III) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE.

20 (2) AT THE OPTION OF THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A VEHICLE FOR  
21 WHICH REGISTRATION PLATES ARE ISSUED UNDER THIS TITLE, IN ADDITION TO THE  
22 INFORMATION OTHERWISE REQUIRED TO BE SHOWN ON THE REGISTRATION  
23 PLATES, THE REGISTRATION PLATES MAY DISPLAY A STICKER INDICATING THE  
24 NAME OF THE COUNTY, INCLUDING BALTIMORE CITY, IN WHICH THE OWNER OF THE  
25 VEHICLE RESIDES.

26 (3) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

27 (I) APPROVE A STICKER DESIGN OPTION THAT COMPLIES WITH  
28 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

29 (II) OFFER TO EACH VEHICLE OWNER APPLYING FOR NEW OR  
30 REPLACEMENT REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS TITLE THE OPTION TO SELECT A  
31 STICKER THAT DISPLAYS THE OWNER'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE.

32 (4) IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE  
33 REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY CHARGE A FEE, NOT TO

1 EXCEED ITS COSTS, FOR ISSUING OR REPLACING THE COUNTY STICKER OFFERED  
2 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

3 (5) A VEHICLE OWNER MAY NOT DISPLAY STICKERS THAT SHOW A  
4 COUNTY NAME OTHER THAN THE OWNER'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE.

5 (6) A COUNTY STICKER ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE  
6 PLACED ON A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE OR A COMMEMORATIVE REGISTRATION  
7 PLATE ISSUED UNDER SUBTITLE 6 OF THIS TITLE.

8 [(c)] (D) Registration plates may be reflectorized and shall be manufactured of  
9 a material warranted to have a durability of at least 5 years. However, prior to  
10 registration plates being reflectorized, the Administration shall obtain approval of the  
11 General Assembly through a budget item.

12 [(d)] (E) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may  
13 order the continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current  
14 registration year, and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a  
15 vehicle's registration is renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's  
16 annual registration fee.

17 (2) The tab shall be displayed on the plates of the vehicle in the manner  
18 that the Administrator requires.

19 (3) The Administrator from time to time shall evaluate the condition of  
20 registration plates issued under this title and may provide for the manufacture and  
21 issuance of new registration plates. These new registration plates shall be issued and  
22 subsequently validated in the manner required by this subtitle.

23 [(e)] (F) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the  
24 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and  
25 13-619 of this title.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2001.